

Sunset Advisory Commission
2022 Board and Commission Questionnaire
Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Review Board

The Sunset Advisory Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

Please answer the following questions about the specific board or commission under review. If asked to testify before the Sunset Advisory Commission, please plan to provide concise recommendations regarding the continued operation of the board or commission under review and any revisions to its powers, duties, or membership.

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

The Board meets when a request is made for the monetary benefit on behalf of survivors. of emergency personnel. The Board has not met in the past two fiscal years.

Agendas and Minutes can be found here:

<https://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/content/emergency-personnel-survivor>

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

State Treasurer, Chair

Attorney General or Designee

Executive Director of the Division of Fire Safety or Designee

Member of the public appointed by the Governor (term of two years, entitled to per diem)

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

To provide a monetary benefit to survivors of emergency personnel, employed by or who volunteer for the State of Vermont, a county or municipality of the State, or a nonprofit entity that provides services in the State, who die in the line of duty or of an occupation-related illness.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, this purpose is still needed. If the board no longer fulfilled the purpose there would not be a mechanism for decisions regarding distributions from the Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Special Fund, 20 V.S.A. Sec. 3175.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

Please see the Board's meeting record here:

<https://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/content/emergency-personnel-survivor>

The Board is only called to meet in the event of a tragedy, so it is the hope that it is never, or rarely, required to execute its duties.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

Historically, the Board has executed duties in an efficient manner. The meeting record indicates that the Board's most recent decision was reached in a single meeting.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

The Board's functions do not overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

The enabling statute requires the State Treasurer's office to provide staff, office space, and any other reasonable and necessary resources to the Board. The Board has not met since 2016.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

The Board is not required to produce any reports or studies and has no ongoing reporting obligations.